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FEB 21 2007

Appl. No. 10/771,543

Amdt. Dated February 21, 2007

Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (previously canceled).

2. (previously amended) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door accordingly to claim 15, wherein an angle is formed between the axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis when the wheel and the axle pivot relative to each other.

3. (original) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door according to claim 2, wherein the angle formed between the axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis is about zero to about 30 degrees.

4. (original) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door according to claim 3, wherein the angle formed between the axis of rotation and the longitudinal axis is about zero to about 15 degrees.

Claim 5 (previously canceled).

6. (previously amended) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door according to claim 17, wherein the central portion of the axle is an enlarged portion of the axle.

7. (original) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door according to claim 6, wherein the central portion of the axle is substantially spherical in shape.

8. (original) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door according to claim 6, wherein the central portion of the axle is substantially ellipsoidal in shape.

Appl. No. 10/771,543
Amdt. Dated February 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2006

Claim 9 (canceled).

10. (currently amended) A wheel assembly for a sliding door according to claim 15 comprising:

a wheel with a central portion that includes a plurality of flexible fingers; and
an axle with a spheroidal surface [non-cylindrical central] portion,
wherein the plurality of flexible fingers engage the axle such that the wheel is
rotatably mounted on the axle and can pivot on the axle.

11. (currently amended) A wheel assembly for a sliding door according to claim 10, where the spheroidal surface [central] portion of the axle is an enlarged portion of the axle intermediate its ends.

12. (original) A wheel assembly for a sliding door according to claim 11,
wherein the central portion of the axle is substantially spherical in shape.

Appl. No. 10/771,543

Amdt. Dated February 21, 2007

Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2006

13. (original) A wheel assembly for a sliding door according to claim 11, wherein the central portion of the axle is substantially ellipsoidal in shape.

Claim 14 (previously canceled).

15. (previously and currently amended) A wheel guide assembly for a sliding door comprising:

a mounting structure with a body portion and a top portion, wherein one end of the top portion is disposed at one end of the body portion;

at least one axle with a longitudinal axis disposed on the top portion of the mounting structure[; and] said axle having a spheroidal surface portion;

at least one wheel with an axis of rotation[,] and [the at least one wheel] having a hub portion with a spheroidal inner surface portion in which said spheroidal surface of said axle is seated, and said hub portion is pivotable about said spheroidal portion of said axle to allow said wheel to rotate freely in a horizontal plane [formed of a first material and a tire portion formed of a second material,

wherein the hub portion is formed of a material having low friction with respect to the material of the at least one axle and the at least one wheel].

16. (previously amended) A wheel assembly according to claim 15, wherein the at least one wheel includes a plurality of flexible fingers.

Claim 17 (canceled).

18. (previously and currently amended) A wheel assembly according to claim [17] 15, wherein the at least one wheel includes a plurality of flexible fingers.

Claim 19 (canceled).

Appl. No. 10/771,543

Amdt. Dated February 21, 2007

Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2006

Claim 20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) A wheel assembly according to claim 10, wherein each of the flexible fingers are contoured to the shape of the [outer] spheroidal surface of the axle to surround the axle.

22. (previously added) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 10, wherein the wheel includes a hub portion and a tire portion, and the plurality of flexible fingers are integrally formed with and form a one-piece, unitary structure with the hub portion.

23. (currently amended) A wheel guide assembly according to claim 10, wherein each of the flexible fingers has a concave surface, which [is] substantially corresponds to the spheroidal surface portion [similar to the shape] of the spheroidal [exterior] surface of the [non-cylindrical central] spheroidal portion of the axle, and each flexible finger is constructed and arranged to flex outwardly from an axis of the axle when the [non-cylindrical central] spheroidal portion of the axle is captured by the flexible fingers and positioned adjacent the concave surfaces of the flexible fingers.